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Summary of News.

Monday, 5th October.

SATISFACTORY rain has fallen in the affected districts of the Madras Presidency. Between one and two inches are reported from Nellore, Madras, and Salem and general rain throughout the tracts where it is most wanted.

THE prospects in Rajputana, and West Punjab are, we regret to say, not so favourable. The storm of which the centre, after remaining at Nagpur for two days, turned round at right angles to its former course to Seoni, was at Jubbulpur, and is thus following a line which will just skirt the country that is most in need of rain, instead of, as was hoped, passing through the very heart of it.

THE amount of civil litigation in the North Western provinces has of late years been steadily decreasing, while the block of civil business of all kinds has been just as steadily increasing. In 1889 the number of civil suits instituted exceeded one lakh: in 1890 the number was only 93,684. Special and local causes, inferior autumn harvests, and the operation of the Succession Certificate Act are the reasons assigned for the decrease, but it is hardly necessary to point out that all these causes are temporary in their action and do not account altogether for a continued and steady decrease in litigation. The decrease was most marked during 1890 in the divisions of Agra, Rohilkhand and Gorakhpur.

THE Committee of the Bombay Millowner's Association have resolved to close the mills nine days [illegible] month until the end of the year, and it is [illegible]ted that this will lessen the outturn by about [illegible]t thousand bales monthly and greatly help to reduce the stock of Bombay yarn held in China.

A RUSSIAN named Ladislas de Pietrisky Kefoski, who arrived in Bombay a month ago, has been deported. The Commissioner of Police wrote to the Government of Bombay regarding his presence and he was kept under police surveillance. Government deemed it expedient to deport him from Bombay. A warrant of deportation was accordingly issued from the Political Department.

AUGUST 27th was the seventy-second anniversary of Prince Albert's birthday, a day which the Queen makes it a rule to pass at Balmoral; and in accordance with the annual practice, "the Gentlemen of the Household" and several of the upper and estate servants assembled at the Prince's memorial cairn, and there drank in silence a bumper of old Lochnagar to his memory. This cairn is a pyramid of stone, which is the most prominent object on the hill above the Castle, and all persons who pass along the north Deeside road see it plainly. Many of the stones are marked with initials, which represent all the members of the Royal Family who were alive with Prince Albert.

A FIERCE controversy has been raging in the Urdu journals on the question as to whether Delhi or Lucknow is the true centre of Urdu language and literature. Partisans of either of the cities have long fought over the question, and the din of battle was growing fainter of late. But a couple of dictionaries, compiled by two gentlemen belonging to the rival cities respectively, have again caused a renewal of hostilities. The Lucknow dictionary is bigger than the Delhi one, but it is alleged that the former has been padded with such Persian and Arabic words as are not used in Urdu. Lucknow people say that Delhiwalas cannot be regarded as authorities on such matters and the latter return the compliment with compound interest. We are sorry to see some journals have lost their temper over the question, and have been guilty of much needless ink-shedding.

MR. EDISON has for some time past been engaged with Mr. G. P. Lathrop in writing a romance on the future of electricity. The authors' subject (the *Athenæum* says) is to forecast the future of invention in all departments of human activity, and to depict the probable conditions of life in the twenty-fifth century. The book will be illustrated by Mr Edison himself.

Tuesday, 6th October.

MR. FREDERIC HARRISON'S annual delivery before the English Positivists must this year have been somewhat of a surprise to many of his friends. He took as his subject on Saturday night—the anniversary of Comte's death—"Woman's True Function." Radical of Radicals, as he is, Mr. Harrison's remarks will commend themselves to conservatives throughout the world, and shock those time-serving politicians who are conceding the demand for woman suffrage. Women, said Mr. Harrison, must choose to be either women or abortive men. If they elect to take their part in the struggle for positions hitherto held by men, if, that is, they insist upon what are euphemistically termed their rights, "they will be women no longer and society will be eventually divided into male and female specimens." Woman's place is admitted by the best thinkers to be the home. On this point Mr. Harrison adopts the arguments so energetically and beautifully enforced by Mr. Ruskin. Woman should be as supreme in the Home as man is now in the State. To keep the family true and refined, and what it ought to be, is a nobler task, as he says, than to govern States. "To mix up so sacred a duty with grosser occupations of politics and trade is to unfit her for it as completely as the priest would be unfitted for duties if he were to embark in the business of a money lender."

NUMEROUS projects for the navigation of the air are engaging attention in England, France and America. A company on the other side of the Atlantic called the Mount Carmel Aeronautic Navigation Company is prepared to invest four millions sterling in "air-ships." Models of these vessels have also been shown both in New York and St. Louis, and have been received with approval by aeronauts. In France a M. Ader claims to have made a real flight, and H. M. Lecomte, the Director of the Meteorological School of Aerostation at Paris, proposes shortly to cross the continent of Africa in a balloon. But of all the schemes hitherto tried in æronautic science that of Mr. Maxim is the most wonderful. That celebrated artillerist, who has already produced a famous gun, is now engaged in the preparation of an ærial machine. Should this invention be successful it will have the effect of revolutionising the art of war. "Flying artillery overhead from which masses of explosive material could be dropped from enormous heights, plunging through the decks of ironclads or shattering fortresses on shore," would indeed be the most powerful of destructive agents. Mr. Maxim is constructing his ærial machine at Crayford, near London. It is nearly ready for trial, and £10,000 have already been expended on it. The weight of the entire machine is 5,400lbs. The fuel to be used is gasoline; buoyancy is obtained by the pressure of air on the under side of sundry planes, and the machine has two propelling screws, with an engine to each screw.

PROFESSOR Max Muller writes to the *Times* respecting the International Congress of Orientalists to be held in London in 1892:—"All questions concerning our last Congress at Stockholm and Christiana should be addressed to the two presidents, Count Mohrenheim, Minister of Education, Stockholm, or Professor Lieblein, at Christiana. They continue in office till the meeting of the next Congress. They keep the minutes and the financial accounts, and superintend the publication of the papers read at the last Congress. Questions concerning our next Congress in 1892 should be addressed to the secretaries of the organising committee, Professors Rhys Davids, Douglas, and Macdonell, 22, Albemarle-street, W. All offers of papers to be read should be submitted to the presidents or secretaries of the respective sections, Professors Cowell, Robertson Smith, Sayce, Pinches, Sir Thomas Wade, Sir Arthur Gordon, and Le Page Renouf. In the interest of Oriental scholarship I have accepted the duties of president for our next Oriental Congress in 1892, and I hope my health may enable me to discharge them when the time comes. But the duties of the new president begin only with the new Congress when the present presidents resign, and I hope it may not be considered a want of courtesy on my part if for the present I must leave many letters unanswered. I shall be absent from England till the middle of October."

Wednesday, 7th October.

PATIALA will, ere long, have a "Club" in imitation of the great London institutions, and will have the honor of bearing the name of the ruler of the State, who has kindly consented to be its patron. His Highness is quite delighted with the idea and has promised to supply all the requisite furniture of the Club at State cost and to have the buildings lighted with electricity. There will be a tennis court and skating rink attached to the Club. The office-bearers and members will be appointed from among the leading officials of the State. A subscription list has been opened and about twenty thousand rupees have already been collected.

THE offering up of cows at annual *Eed* festivals has, for some years past, been the occasion of considerable ill-feeling, and even rioting, between Mussalmans and Hindus in this country. In a recent issue, the *Pioneer* enters upon a discussion as to religious sanction for this kind of sacrifice. The writer finds that there is not the faintest shadow of evidence, historic or Koranic, that the great founder of Islam ever authorized the sacrifice of cows on the *Eed* or any other occasion. He alludes to the fact that nowhere except in India, a cow is offerred up for sacrifice; and, this fact, of which he entertains no doubt, leads him to infer that the practice may be well accounted for as one instance of Mussalman iconoclasm in Hindustan. In tracing the origin of this practice, the writer observes that in former days Mussalmans residing in India had used to go all the way to Mecca, in order to observe the *Eed* festival; but, Emperor Jehangir, fearing lest the temporary absence from India of a considerable portion of the army on this account should result in danger to the safety of the Empire, gave permission to observe the *Eed* in this country. It was on the occasion of the observance of the *Eed* in India for the first time that the first cow-slaughter on record took place, at the instance of the *Ulema* or ecclesiastic authorities who surrounded the person of Jehangir. The *koran*, so far from sanctioning the slaughter of the cow as sacrifice, says the *Pioneer*, enjoins that the life of the animal should be held precious, in consideration of the various benefits which men derive from it; and, no orthodox Mussalman considers any practice not enjoined in the *koran* obligatory on him, unless such practice has the authority of the sign-manual of the Shaiful-Islam, the highest Mussalman ecclesiastical functionary. For these reasons, the writer in the *Pioneer* contends that neither Emperor Jehangir nor the *Ulema* above referred to, could be a competent authority for the introduction of cow-slaughter on the *Eed* festival; and that unless those who do now-a-days offer up the cow for sacrifice, can quote the Shaiful-Islam's written sanction for this practice, their conduct must be looked upon as "a sin against the Prophet."

IN the Madras High Court their lordships the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Sheppard had under their consideration, the other day, a case of defiling an idol. In March last a native was charged before the 2nd Class Magistrate of Harur with defiling an idol by placing round its neck a pair of old slippers, and being convicted of the offence, was sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment. The accused thereupon appealed to the Court of the Head Assistant Magistrate of Salem, with the result that the conviction and sentence of the Lower Court were quashed, and the prisoner released on the ground that the views taken by the High Court in the rulings of certain Revision cases, Nos. 421 and 422 of 1885, precluded the assumption of criminality in the act of the prisoner, and further that in the present case there was not even a difference of caste or sect. Mr. Justice Muthuswamy Iyer held in cases of this description that to defile meant to render materially or virtually impure or to render impure to the knowledge, of the accused, according to the recognised usage of the institution as an object of worship; while Mr. Justice Parker opined that the word defile was used in the section only in its primary signification of making unclean, rendering foul or dirty, and had nothing to do with ceremonial nor ritual; and further that it was not intended to make criminally punishable under the general law on breaches of ritualistic observance committed by persons of any one creed against the canons of their own faith. Their lordships, however, remanded the case to the Lower Appellate Court to be re-heard. The proceedings are being watched with keen interest.

Thursday, 8th October.

A CORRESPONDENT sent the following note to the *Pioneer*:—

"A few months ago, a new theory was put forward respecting the origin and nature of the moisture found in the morning on leaves and grass. It had hitherto been held by all naturalists, apparently without exception, that this moisture was dew. But a gentleman in Scotland, not known to fame, was not content to accept the current and traditional opinion, and assuming nothing, he investigated the subject *de novo*, with the result that he was able to prove to demonstration that between the dew and the moisture found after a rainless night on vegetation, there was an essential difference. He discovered that while dew is but the mere exhalation of the soil, this moisture was an exudation from the vegetation itself. The theory came as a surprise to the scientific world; but the steps of the demonstration were so clearly worked out that the author of the discovery, though not noted as a man of science, was at once brought into public notice. He was held by the highest scientific authorities to have made a distinct discovery in nature. Now, there are some phenomena not mentioned by him which appear undoubtedly to bear out his theory on the subject, and they may be noted at the present time because they are patent to the observation of us all at this time of the year. Let a tree overhang a white-washed wall or gateway, and in course of time we shall see that the white-wash is covered with green film. On the time-honoured theory that the moisture on leaves was but the exhalation which had risen from the soil during the previous night, it was impossible to account for the colour of this deposit. Mere water would not have produced the phenomenon. The only adequate theory is that the moisture which fell upon the whitewash was chemically a green composition. The theory is further corroborated from the curious fact, equally near at hand to us all, that after a rainless night *mendhi* that was cut on the previous day and is now entirely without green leaves, is dry, while the *mendhi* which is budding and that which has leaves, is saturated with moisture. A servant after such a night will without hesitation put an article of clothing to air in the sun on *mendhi* so recently cut, though he would deem it the height of folly to place it on green *mendhi* for that purpose. There were two points which first awakened the attention of the discoverer to the subject: the first was, that moisture was found on the under surface of the leaves as well as on the upper; and the second, that moisture was found on the leaves after nights in which no dew had fallen, phenomena for the presence of which the old-world theory provided no satisfactory explanation."

THE London correspondent of a contemporary writes:—"The most amusing feature of this week's *Punch* is certainly Mr. Harry Furniss's full page caricatures of the redoubtable Sir Richard Temple. These extremely funny sketches are the result of the much-to-be-regretted determination come to by the honorable Baronet to shake the dust of the House of Commons off his feet. One can readily understand the artist's anguish at the prospect of losing so admirable a subject. I am reminded of a lobby story which, like so many stories that emanate from the Palace of Westminister, is of course utterly without foundation. It is said that some brother M.P. once called Sir Richard's attention in the Library of the House to a far from flattering delineation of the well-known features; whereupon, in a very angry mood, he hurried away thirsting for poor Mr. Furniss's blood. The caricaturist had once been pointed out to him, but Sir Richard had not well remembered his features. As the ex-Governor of Bombay emerged from the House into the member's lobby, Mr. Lucy, the well-known Parliamentary journalist, was conversing with the door-keeper. Mistaking Mr. Lucy, for the offending artist, Sir Richard (so the story goes) seized him by the coat collar and said, "You wretched man, how dare you."—When he discovered his mistake, he profoundly apologised to Mr. Lucy and returning to the House found Mr. Samuel Smith holding forth on the iniquities of the opium traffic or something of that kind. It was remarked that Sir Richard's speech in reply to the worthy faddist was more bitter than usual. I tell the tale as it was told to me, but nobody who has the slightest acquaintance with Sir Richard Temple will believe it. Unless I am greatly mistaken, there is no reader of *Punch* who more thoroughly enjoys the caricatures of Sir Richard Temple than Sir Richard Temple himself."

COL. KNOLLYS has given in *Blackwood* an account of the experiment which is eminently calculated to excite the curiosity of those who run after new fashions. The South Africans are extremely fond of cigars, but their habit is to smoke them in a peculiar way. They put the lighted end into their mouth and smoke. When this peculiarity was first mentioned to Col Knollys he supposed that his informant was cracking a joke; but to his amazement he saw numerous instances. The native, it is stated, first lighted his cigar, by the ordinary method, then turning it round, he deftly arranged the hot glowing end in his mouth, and tucking away his tongue in his cheek, proceeded to inspire and expire the fumes, very gradually consuming the whole of the cigar. The smokers assured their visitor that the process was warm, comforting, delicious and far superior to the usual mode.

Friday, 9th October.

THE system of ocean penny postage which the late Mr. Raikes had recommended to the Treasury for adoption must not, says a London correspondent, be confounded with imperial penny postage, for whereas the latter is intended to supersede the existing arrangement, the former, whilst leaving the rates of overland transmission untouched, would provide a cheaper scale for persons to whom rapid delivery is of less importance than the question of cost. In point of distance, the amount paid to Continental Railway companies for the carriage of mails between this country and India, China, and Australia is out of all proportion to that paid for the sea passage, and the postal authorities admit that if the aid of the French and Italian railway companies could be dispensed with, the adoption of a penny fee would cause very little loss to the Exchequer. Mr. Raikes, therefore, suggests that senders of letters to India should have a choice of two routes: those electing to transmit their communications *via* Brindisi being charged 2½*d.* as at present, and those content with the less expeditious ocean passage being charged a penny. The same principle is proposed in connection with the whole of British Colonies, *viz.*, that wherever the entire journey is performed by water the postage shall be one penny, the higher rate being continued for any letters in respect of which an extra charge is incurred for overland transit *en route*. The decision of the Treasury is expected to be made known very shortly. In connection with the expected innovation the Peninsular and Oriental steamer *Ravenna* has been fitted up with a most elaborate travelling sorting cabin, where the mails will be sorted *en route* between Aden and Bombay. The *Ravenna* will afterwards be placed on the China station for a year, and the mails between the various ports will be sorted on board should the new arrangement answer. The mail-room occupies the place of what was formerly the second saloon and every attention has been paid in the fitting up to the comfort of the postal officials.

THE distress in Ajmere-Marwara, where on account of the long drought there is now great scarcity both of water and forage, has culminated in agrarian rioting on rather an extensive scale. A belief seems to have got abroad that the British authorities had pronounced that looting the stores of the bunniahs would be considered no robbery: and consequently they have been looted by excited mobs in several villages. The military have been called out to prevent the disturbances spreading.

BOTH the English and vernacular press of Bombay pronounce the result of the Ahmednagar murder trial to be extremely unsatisfactory. Two sergeants of a British regiment were charged with causing the death of a native who was found dead in a public garden early one morning in August. There was evidence to show that the two persons were drunk and were absent from barracks together late at night; and when inquiries came to be made next morning, blood was found on the sword bayonet and scabbard of one of them and on the trousers of his companion. The *Bombay Gazette* says:—"There was evidence that both the men were under the influence of drink, and in that condition men will do for sheer wantonness what they will not do for money. The men were ably defended by Mr. Louis Russell, and they owe their liberty at all events very largely to as striking a piece of criminal advocacy as there has been in India for a long time. But Mr. Russell himself seems to have looked for greater success than a reduction of the charge against Foster, the state of whose sword may have indicated that he had taken a leading part in the affray, to one of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. If the Jury had brought in a verdict to that effect no one would have complained that they took a severe view of the case. As it is, the trial and its result have occasioned no little surprise, and many people who are ready to accept it without protest will wonder all the same how, upon the evidence, it was arrived at." The *Times of India* writes that "the result of the trial is at best singularly unsatisfactory. The Jury who were entrusted with the power of life and death had, of course, the advantage denied to us of weighing the evidence at first hand. They acquitted the accused of murder in the first place, and of culpable homicide in the second, and their finding was accepted by the learned Judge. The law has run its course in all due form, and it is, we are bound to suppose, a misfortune and nothing more that another mysterious murder has passed unpunished.

IT is reported that a discovery has been made of the existence of a race of dwarfs under four feet high in the Atlas mountains, only a few hundred miles from the Mediterranean, who are regarded with such superstitious awe by the Moors that for many centuries their existence was kept a profound secret. It is thought they have some connection with the pigmies of Central Africa, discovered by Stanley, and may be the descendants of the Troglodytes mentioned by Herodotus.

Saturday, 10th October.

THE Lahore paper writes:—"It is rumoured in Calcutta that some Manchester cotton merchants are about to start a mill weaving shed in Lower Bengal and that they have offered 15 lakhs for the vacant barracks at Chinsurah which they think will suit their purpose. From what we know of the Lancashire spinners, we can well credit this. Money is cheap in England, and trade slack, and it is quite possible that, seeing competition in India growing, they have determined to try for themselves what is to be made out of spinniug and weaving in India. The idea is a great one, and worthy of one of the most long-headed communities on earth. They see that in India their low-count yarns are being ousted by those of indigenous manufacture. They have, as a body, an enormous capital, and just at present it is not easy to find good investments for it. Therefore why should not they—to put ourselves in their place—just risk a little money, a mere flea-bite to them, if a good many join, and start a big mill and sheds in India, and see realy where that country has the pull over them? They of course know what is the very latest and best machinery, and would be able to send out a thoroughly experienced European supervising staff and having heaps of money behind them would be able to take things very quietly and observe. If they lost in India, the knowlege they gained might be of immense use to them at Home; and if they made a success, they could either start other concerns or sell out at a profit. Long-headedness and capital form a combination that it is not easy to fight against, and the Manchester merchants have both. If the enterprise takes form, we shall be much surprised to hear that a single share has been offered in this country, unless to representatives of Manchester houses."

IN the course of a discussion at the late meeting of the British Association on photography as applied to exploration, Colonel Tenner, of the Indian Survey, said that he had been advocating the adaptability of photography to such work as the survey of portions of the Himalayas, which Europeans were not allowed to visit, and which the authorities in India had to map out as accurately as might be from a distance of 100 miles. Photography in the hands of surveyors would greatly facilitate the mapping of the Himalayas, and would very considerably shorten the work. For ten years he had been endeavouring to make a map of Nepal no portion of which State [illegible] been permitted to visit. All they had to go by was a representation of the chief mountain ranges, and they did not know the gaps in the ranges through which the rivers of Nepal flowed. Photography would also greatly facilitate the survey of the highlands, covered with ice and snow, where his assistants were employed. One of his assistants was taking observations of a range of mountains 20,400ft. high, and he had to devote the whole of his time to recording observations in his note-book.

THE War Office has won in the dispute between that Office and the India Office as to the alleged overcharge for stores. It will be remembered that Mr. Bradlaugh so strenuously pressed this matter in the House of Commons that it was agreed it should be referred to arbitration. In the Auditor's Report on the Indian Home Accounts recently published, Paragraph No. 1 thus states the result:—With reference to the long standing dispute between the India Office and War Office respecting the prices charged by the latter Office for Warlike Stores, I have to state that Mr Secretary Stanhope agreed to refer the several questions in dispute to an arbitrator. Lord Cranbrook, who consented to act in that capacity, has given a decision on the several points referred to him to the following effect:—"After careful consideration of the documents laid before me by the two Departments, I have come to the conclusion, that No. 2 Balance Sheet under which the India Office was charged, fairly represented the cost price of the articles supplied in accordance with the terms agreed upon between the War Office and India Office." It is believed that when Parliament re-assembles, some hon'ble member will press for the publication of the whole particulars of the enquiry.

THE Emperor William has repeatedly and earnestly invited the Queen to visit Germany next year, and, all being well, her Majesty will probably comply with his wish, as she told him when he went to Windsor Castle to bid her farewell on July 14th. Nothing, however, is yet settled about the arrangements for the visit, except that the Queen will stay for at least 10 days at Cronberg, in the Taunus, with the Empress Frederick whose magnificent new chateau will be finished very shortly. It is more likely that the Emperor will entertain the Queen on the Rhins at the Castle of Stolzenfels, near Coblenz than that her Majesty will visit Potsdam or Berlin as she would be unequal to the fatigue of the numerous State functions and Court ceremonies would be inevitable if she went to either of the seats of the Prussian Court.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1891.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF INDIA.

THE first chapter of Mr. J. E. O'Connor's able and interesting Annual Review of the Trade of British India with foreign countries for 1890-91, summarizes the prominent trade features of the year. The principal event of the period under report was, of course, the disturbance of the silver market owing to the action of the American Congress, and on this event turned the whole course of trade. At the beginning of January, 1890, Exchange stood at 17 pence in Calcutta and it rose to about 17½ pence in the second week of April. It then began to go up rapidly, and was over 18 pence in May and June and above 19½ pence by the beginning of August, with an increase of another pence by the end of that month. It remained at this high figure until the middle of September when a reaction set in and Exchange fell faster than it had risen. It stood at 17 pence at the end of February, 1891 the rate which prevailed in January 1890. There were further fluctuations, and at the end of the official year the rate was 17⅛ pence. Mr. O'Connor observes:—"The whole rise before the middle of August, when the purchases under the Silver Bill were first made, was purely speculative, silver being stored up for sale to the Treasury on the passing of the law. The discovery was soon made, however, that the speculation had been overdone and that the stock of metal that had been accumulated by speculators was far in excess of the quantity of silver than that would be required within any reasonable time for the purposes of the Treasury. Holders, therefore, hastened to relieve themselves of the stock they had taken up, and the price of silver fell as rapidly as it had risen. Speculation on the price of silver was carried on in two other directions in addition to storage for sale to the United States. In the first place, large purchases were made of silver securities. Where such purchases were made from countries with a silver standard they tended to raise both the rate of exchange and the price of silver. * * * In the second place, the exchange banks transferred capital to India from London in view of the anticipated rise in the price of silver. While the increase in price was in progress large profits were made by those who threw their silver on the Indian market." The natural consequence was a large increase in the importation of silver into India. The net imports last year amounted to 14¼ crores. This large quantity, following on a considerable import in the preceding year, was greatly in excess of commercial requirements and the excess was augmented by the Government substituting a crore of rupees in Government securities for that sum in coin and bullion, held as part of the paper currency reserve. Mr. O'Connor points out that the silver thus thrown on the market from countries outside India and from the currency vaults has not yet been absorbed, and the inevitable result has been the phenomenal cheapness of money throughout the year. He rightly attributes the insane speculation in gold shares, which prevailed in Calcutta last year, to the abnormal cheapness of money and the general dislocation of legitimate trade resulting from the violent changes in the price of silver.

It appears that the rapid rise in exchange which took place between March and September, 1890, not only stimulated the imports of silver, but also had the effect of stimulating the imports of gold and merchandise. The net imports of gold amounted to 5¾ crores, being in excess of the imports of 1889-90, which were also large, by more than a crore. Altogether the net imports of gold and silver amounted to about 20 crores. The total value of merchandise imported into India last year was 69 crores, being about 3·7 per cent. more than the imports of the preceding year. But the exports of Indian merchandise fell from 99 crores in 1889-90 to 96 crores in the year under review. This decrease of three crores in the value of exported merchandise was partly due to the fluctuations in exchange, but it was more largely due to a fall of price in opium and to deficient harvests of cotton and rapeseed. The reduction in the value of exported merchandise would have been greater but for the accident that there was an unusually large demand for Indian rice in the European and Asiatic markets. Mr. O'Connor discusses the food supply question at some length. It will be remembered that some time ago he wrote a Memorandum on the recent "boom" in wheat, which was chiefly directed against the advocates of restriction or taxation of exports of food grains from India. In that document he explained the causes of the "boom" and gave figures that the export of wheat from India is, and must remain, on too small a scale compared with the total food production of the country to reduce our food supplies beyond the limits of safety. In his Annual Review of the Foreign Trade of India for 1890-91 under notice, Mr. O'Connor says:—"Much public attention has been directed recently to the exports of food-grains from India and the matter will probably continue to be discussed, seeing that the rainy season harvest is likely to be deficient over large areas. It is, therefore, desirable to correct a very general notion that the exports have increased greatly in recent years." Mr. O'Connor asserts that the exports of food-grains from India have not increased at all during the last ten years; and in order to establish the position taken up by him he states that the exports in 1881-82 were 50 million cwt. while last year they amounted to 51 million cwt. The exports of last year, he contends, were just about the same as they were five years ago, and only about 2¼ per cent in excess of the exports of ten years ago, and that they would have been much smaller if it had not been for a quite abnormal demand for rice from Burma, caused mainly by the failure of the Japanese rice harvest. It is true that the exports of food-grains from India have not increased during the last ten years; but the assumption that these exports will always remain on too small a scale compared with the total food production of the country to reduce our food supplies beyond the limits of safety seems to us to be quite unfounded. Mr. T. W. Holderness, in his Memorandum on the Food Production of the North-Western Provinces, has made such sensible and thoughtful observations on this important question that we cannot resist the temptation of reproducing them here. Mr. Holderness refers specially to wheat exports, but his remarks apply generally to the exports of all food-grains from India. He writes:—"The assumption that the European demand for Indian wheat will continue to be confined within limits which, having regard to the food production of the wheat-producing provinces, may be considered reasonably safe, appears to me unwarranted. It has been frequently asserted that prices, by rising in India, on the first sign of exhaustion of stocks, will always check exports before they become dangerously large. But if prices in Europe were similarly to rise and the exchange to remain stationary or to fall, the rise in India would not check until the level of famine rates was reached; and famines are not reached in India without privation and suffering among the masses. The argument, therefore, to be completely re-assuring to the Indian administrator, is obliged to assume a certain stability in the price in Europe, or at least the existence of a limit beyond which it is not likely to rise. It so happens that since the commencement of the Indian export trade the facts have been in comformity with this assumption." But there is no guarantee that this will always continue to be the case. With a stationary or falling exchange and high prices in Europe the exports of Indian food-grains are sure to increase.

Mr. O'Connor scouts the notion that the country is being denuded of its food supplies. Referring to the complaint often made in the Native Press that export is depleting the country, he says:—"It would be a sufficient answer to this extraordinary statement to say that every pound of grain which is exported is paid for at its full value and that the owner of produce which is not needed for his own consumption parts with it for export only because it is more profitable to him to do so than to sell it for consumption in the country; for if it were needed for consumption in the country the price offered by local consumers would be at least equal to the price which is offered for export. This answer, however, may usefully be supplemented by the actual facts of the case. We have in the agricultural statistics of British India the area under the principal food-grains for the six years ending 1889-90.* * * During this period the area under food-grains increased from 112,085,40 acres to 119,600,465 acres—that is, by 6.7 per cent. The exports of all food-grains increased in the same period from 39,217,087 cwt. to 42,687,269 cwt.—that is, by 8.8 per cent. Looking further into the figures it appears that with an increase in the exports of rice of about 23 per cent., there was an increase in the rice acreage of about 26 per cent. With a decrease in the exports of wheat, on the other hand, of nearly 13 per cent., there was a decrease in the wheat acreage of only 6.6 per cent. In the first case the increase in acreage is substantially in excess of the increase in export demand. * * * The area has increased in about the same ratio as the population, and the exports are as yet so absolutely insignificant that their withdrawal from stock has no appreciable effect on the quantity available from the enormous area cultivated. If the exports should very largely increase hereafter which, however, does not at present seem to be probable, we shall certainly find the area of cultivation to extend in direct ratio with the combined home and foreign demand." It is true that every pound of grain that is exported from the country is paid for at its full value; but we must remember that the high prices which now prevail throughout the whole of India are the cause of much terrible suffering. And there is no doubt that the high price of corn in this country in recent times has produced a good deal of discontent. To the peasant who grows the corn high prices may be a benefit, provided that his circumstances enable him to reserve enough food for himself and his family and to sell the surplus at the most advantageous time and the best price. But we must not forget what the late lamented Mr. J. C. Geddes, of the Bengal Civil Service, stated in his evidence before the East Indian Finance Committee, namely, that the poor cultivator is often obliged to rest content with one meal a day and sell off and export the other meal for paying his taxes. Then, speaking generally, the peasant who grows the corn does not benefit by the prevailing higher prices. He is entirely in the hands of his village money-lender, and is obliged to make over the whole of his standing crop to him so that the profit derived from the high market prices goes into the hands of the usurer and not of the cultivator. It is all very well to say that the exportation of food-grains from India merely represents the removal of a surplus and is, therefore, an unalloyed blessing. But this Mr. Holderness has conclusively shown in his Memorandum, of which mention has been made above, has no legs to stand upon in so far as the North-Western Provinces and Oudh are concerned. And we feel assured if similar enquiries were made by the other Provincial Directors of Agriculture in India, the baselessness of Mr. O. Connor's views would be established beyond the shadow of a doubt.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION RESOLUTIONS.

THE Resolution of the Bengal Government on the General Administration Report of the Presidency, Burdwan and Bhagalpur Divisions for the year 1890-91 directs attention, in the first place, to the unsatisfactory and inadequate manner in which inspection tours were made by the higher executive officials in most of them. The Lieutenant-Governor, it is stated, attaches great importance to well-arranged touring; he looks on the periods of touring laid down as irreducible minima and he will not overlook any failure to fill up these periods in future. Offices

are given distinctly to understand that they are to tour at intervals throughout the year and not only in the cold weather, and are to leave full inspection notes on record. It is satisfactory, however, to note that the Sub-Divisional Officers, in a great majority of cases, more than fully complied with the orders of Government in respect of touring.

The rainfall was heavy and above the average in all these Divisions and was generally evenly distributed over the Districts. The Presidency Division suffered immensely from the floods, an area of 1980 square miles having been affected, and the outturn of *aus* and *aman* rice being 2 to 4 annas less than in the previous year. Agricultural loans were advanced to the amount of Rs. 64,318, and Rs. 15,333 were spent purely on relief works. In the Burdwan Division the outturn of rice was extraordinarily prosperous, being 16 annas for the Division. In the Bhagalpur Division, the *rabi* crop suffered considerable, and the *bhadoi* crop somewhat slight, damage on account of the heavy and necessarily distributed rains, but the rice gave an excellent outturn and the year is reported to have been of average prosperity.

The recorded statistics of mortality show that the Presidency Division was more unhealthy than in the two preceding years, the ratio of deaths per 1,000 of the population having increased from 23·7 and 22·9 to 25·8. This increase is set as due to a larger number of deaths from fever, as the deaths from cholera and other causes were fewer than in either of the two previous years. The Commissioner remarks that imperfect drainage and want of good drinking water are the chief sanitary defects. In the Burdwan Division, public health is said not to have deteriorated. In the Bhagalpur Division there was a marked improvement in the health of the people, owing to the scarcity of the previous year having passed away. The material condition of the people shows generally no remarkable change, and the wages of labour remain stationary. The Commissioner of Burdwan regrets that, in spite of the progress of civilisation, the people of his division show a low standard of personal comfort. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, does not share in this regret and remarks that what the country requires is thrift and widely distributed accumulation of capital, and that nothing could be more disastrous at the present stage than the general adoption of a more expensive mode of living.

The number of mills, presses and factories at work in the 24-Pergunnas remained unchanged but considerable variations took place in the outturn. The gunny bags and cloth produced fell in value and jute bailing underwent great depression. Cotton twist and yarn fared badly, indigo suffered considerable damage on account of the floods, and the sugar industry somewhat declined. The silk filatures in Murshedabad decreased by 12, but the quantity of silk manufactured showed an increase. In the Burdwan Division also there were the usual fluctuations in the outturn of the various articles of trade and manufacture. The silk produce fell in some Districts. The returns of the Iron works show considerable progress. Burdwan coal mines could not maintain the large output achieved in 1889-90, but they still employ about 12,600 working people. A reduction in the rate of freight of coal is said to be the desideratum. The export of lime diminished by half. In the Bhagulpur Division there was a good progress in the return of nearly all articles of manufacture, indigo, saltpetre, molasses, ghee, tussur silk and country cloth. The industries of *Bidri* work and the manufacture of satranjis are said to be decaying.

The most noticeable administrative changes effected in the Presidency Division during the last year are: (1)that Magisterial and Small Cause Court powers have been given to the Station Staff officer at Barrackpore within cantonment limits; (2) that the boundaries of the Sealdah Police Court have been extended; (3) that new Registration offices have been opened in Khulna; and (4) that a larger number of Mahomedans has been introduced both into the superior and inferior services. There were no important changes in the administrative arrangements of district work in the Burdwan and Bhagalpur Divisions. The Mahomedans hold 21·56 per cent of the appointments in the Burdwan Division though they are only 15·21 of the population. The Resolution declares that it should be thoroughly understood by this time that Government is desirous that Mahomedans should receive a fair share of the appointments, but cannot insist on their being given appointments if they are not qualified by education.

Cognizable crimes decreased in both Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. There was, however, a marked development of rioting in the former attributable to the indigo disturbances in the Jhenida and Magura subdivisions. Non-cognizable crimes diminished in the Presidency but increased in the Burdwan Division. The conduct of the Police appears to have improved in the Presidency Division, and the percentage of convictions obtained in Police cases rose from 27 to 29. The Police here also claim the credit of an increase in the reconvictions. The Police administration in Burdwan Division is not satisfactory. The sessions trials show 81·4 per cent. as acquittals and in Bankura the police work is reported to be specially bad. The recommendations made by the Police Committee for making Police service more attractive in this Division have been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor and also by the Government of India. The working of the Village Police has in both Divisions been creditable. In the Bhagalpur Division, the total of cases both cognizable and non-cognizable showed a slight decrease of 1,257.

The Benches and Honorary Magistrates sitting singly have almost all been made independent in the Presidency Division, and dealt with 7,647 cases against 6,027 in the previous year. In the Burdwan Division, there were 459 Honorary Magistrates, who afforded great help to the administration by disposing of 9,157 out of 24,641 cases decided in the year, and the Commissioner writes favorably of the work they performed. The Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division condemns the Bench system, which is said to have not worked well there, somewhat sweepingly. But the Lieutenant-Governor believes that with a little more judicious selection and greater care in securing attendance, the system may be made to work far better.

The percentage of Collections on the land revenue has risen from 95·73 to 96·8 in the Presidency Division. There was a large abatement of revenue which greatly affected the arrear demand and neutralised the better results obtained in the current collections. Of this, however, no explanation has been given. The percentage of collections in *khas mehals* was 77·7 on the gross demand, and throws discredit on the financial management of these mahals. The bad results have been ascribed to floods and vicissitudes of seasons, but the Resolution reminds all Collectors that the assessment is intentionally moderate to admit of its being levied in all seasons alike. The Lieutenant Governor trusts that in working the Sale law with moderation, the collectors will not neglect the just rights of Government. In the Burdwan Division, the percentage of total collections under this head has increased from 93·48 to 95·17, but there has been outstanding a very large balance. It does not appear whether these balances are due from permanently or temporarily settled estates or from Government estates. The Lieutenant-Governor has recently taken measures to diminish these balances and he intends supporting the Revenue authorities in enforcing the *kist* day as the last day of payment. In the Bhagalpur Division the percentage of current collections on current demand showed a satisfactory rise from 94·03 to 97·47 and the percentage of the total balance on the total demand a similar decrease from 6·2 to 2·5. Current and arrear collections together amounted to 97·3 on the total demand.

With the single exception of Bankura, where Rs. 14,344 were collected out of a demand of Rs. 14,345, all estates under the Court of Wards, throughout the three Divisions under review, show unsatisfactory results in respect of collections. In the Cossimbazar estate, for instance, over 100 per cent. of the current demand was realised, but it is simultaneously admitted that only about 50 per cent. of the total demand was secured. The Resolution insists on improvements being made in this direction within reasonable time.

Turning to the subject of Roads, Railways and Canals, the Resolution notes with approval the growing demand among the people for increased facilities of communication. But the tendency generally is more to ask for the assistance of Government than to come forward with the necessary funds. Sir Charles Elliott is, however, anxious to point out that the resources of Government are limited and are required for the development of arterial communications, so that projects of local importance must be carried out with the sympathy and support of local capitalists or at any rate of private enterprise. At the same time, he gladly intimates his willingness to afford the aid of the skilled officers of Government in carrying out such schemes. In Nuddea and Burdwan, the Roads are considered to be deteriorating. This fact deserves the attention of all concerned. It is satisfactory to notice that the condition of the roads has been very much improved during their three years' management by the District Board of the 24-Pergunnas.

The Resolution marks with some dissatisfaction the meagre way in which educational statistics have been furnished. In the Presidency Division, the schools of all grades decreased from 5,794 to 5,521 and their pupils from 191,013 to 177,404. It is to be regretted that this loss has occurred mainly in the Lower Primary Schools and the Female Schools. The District Boards have aided the Upper rather than the Lower Primary Schools. But the District Boards are reminded that it is their special duty to meet as far as possible the demand for lower primary education. The schools and scholars increased in number in four out of the six districts of the Burdwan Division. The girl schools rose in number from 269 to 291, but the girls on rolls were 6,696 as compared with 7,659 in 18 90. Education has much retrogressed in Midnapur and Birbhum. In the Bhagalpur Division there has been an increase in the number of pupils both in public and private institutions, but this increase has been accompanied, for some reasons not explained, by a very decided decrease in the number of schools of each class. Female education has considerably advanced, the number of schools and pupils having considerably increased.

District and Local Boards and Municipalities are reported to have worked satisfactorily. A keen interest is being gradually felt by the public in the Municipal elections and in the selection of persons for nomination. The Lieutenant-Governor believes that the system of Local self-Government would achieve the best success, if the District Officers were to afford timely and judicious co-operation without interference, and he expects Commissioners and District Officers to inspect the working of the Municipalities closely.

In the Presidency Division, the relations between the landlords and tenants were generally amicable. In Midnapur, in the Burdwan Division, they have been much disturbed on account of the recalcitrant character of the ryots. In Bankura land has been changing hand on account of the involved condition of the zemindars. The conduct of the zemindars of the Bhagalpur Division in connection with the census has been referred to in high terms. On the other hand it is to be regretted that no Collector has been in a position to omit a list of zemindars whose conduct in relation to their tenants has not been entirely satisfactory.

The Resolution remarks that the Presidency Division can, more than any other, expect to have an educated public opinion developed in the towns. There are 38 presses, chiefly engaged in publishing newspapers, and the total circulation of the daily and weekly issues amounts to a considerable number. The Commissioner remarks that the tone of the vernacular and Anglo-vernacular press shows signs of gradual but steady improvement.

OFFICIAL AND SOCIAL RELATIONS OF EUROPEANS AND ORIENTALS.

AT the Ninth Congress of Orientalists, which recently assembled in the hall of the Inner Temple, London, two interesting papers on the important subject, which heads this article, were read by Sir Richard Meade and General T. Denneby. Sir Richard's paper was on "Official Relations with Orientals," while General Denneby's paper was entitled—"The Social Relations of Europeans and Orientals." Both of these gentlemen were for years employed in the Indian Political Department, and the positions they held afforded them ample opportunities for acquiring a thorough knowledge of the Oriental character. In considering what ought to be the official relations and intercourse of Europeans with their Indian subordinates and fellow-subjects generally, Sir Richard Meade explained at the outset that the views set forth in his paper were based on the principles and practice of the highest class of Indian administrators, who have themselves practically solved the question. Sir Richard observed:—"It is essential that Europeans who have to control and direct the important work of administration in India shall be gifted with temper, patience, a large and warm sympathy with the people they rule over, and the good sense and judgment that one needs to keep men straight, and to inspire confidence and respect amongst those with whom they are brought in contact. They should be able to converse with freedom in the language of their people, and should be always accessible and ready to hear every one, but should at the same time be decided and firm. They should encourage their subordinates to take an active and warm interest in every thing that concerns the welfare of the people, and should themselves set an example to all round them in this and every other respect. The acceptance of favours [illegible] subordinates is forbidden by Government, [illegible] is so obviously wrong, that no right-minded European superior would stoop to such a practice. Natives are proverbially quick in gauging the character of their European superiors, and are prone to say and do what they think will please them. They are themselves naturally courteous and polite and appreciate courtesy and thoughtful kindness on the part of their superiors. Where these are wanting, and they are treated with rudeness and bad manners, the influence of the superiors with them is at once more or less lowered, to the great injury of their mutual relations. In their social intercourse with their native subordinates European superiors should do all in their power to encourage a habit of friendly intimacy, and to lead their subordinates to take an interest in instructive general conversation and social meetings. The great importance of good social relations between European officials and natives of all classes cannot be over-estimated. Such relations tend to remove prejudice and to beget kindly feelings on both sides." These sensible and thoughtful observations we commend to the careful and attentive consideration of every European official in India. All Europeans in this country who are directly associated with Orientals, either commercially, politically, or as administrators, should endeavour to maintain with them the good relations that are essential to the successful performance of the duties entrusted to them. Unfortunately, however, the average Anglo-Indian official's bearing towards the children of the soil is extremely haughty. He thinks that the Native has no good qualities, and that he has no feelings or rather that he ought to have any. When Europeans who entertain such views are entrusted with the important work of administration in India they can never be successful in the performance of their duties.

In dealing with the question of the employment of Natives in Public service, Sir Richard Meade justly remarked that it should not be regarded as a reproach to an educated Indian that he aspires to higher employment in the service of the State than has hitherto been open to his class. Sir Richard said:—"As regards the possession of administrative ability by the natives of India, many of them have shown a marked capacity in this respect, and it must be remembered that, while the work of direction has lain with European superiors, the great bulk—indeed, I may say all—of the actual details of administration has been and is carried out by native subordinates. I could at this moment name several of my once native assistants, Hindus and Mahomedans, who were employed by me in independent positions as administrators of Native States—whose ruinous disorder compelled interference—and who performed their duties most creditably and successfully. I have also had consderable experience of the work of native Deputy Commissioners in charge of districts and native Assistant Commissioners, and found them perform their administrative and judicial duties, on the whole, well and satisfactorily." This testimony to the administrative capacity of the Natives of India coming, as it does, from an witness like Sir Richard Meade, who successively filled the high and impotant positions of Governor-General's Agent in Central India, Resident at Mysore and Resident at Hyderabad, should carry very great weight with the British public. Whenever it is proposed to admit the children of the soil to some of the higher offices in the public service, all the old and well-kdown objections are brought forward by the opponents of Native advancement. It is alleged that the Natives are defective in physique, and that they are morally unfit to have entrusted to them the higher offices of the State. But as a matter of fact, these objections find no support from those Europeans whose intimate knowledge of India has qualified them to speak with great authority on this subject. Men like Sir George Jacob, Sir Bartle Frere, Sir Richard Temple, Sir Richard Meade and others, who have been at the head of a province or provinces, have emphatic testimony to the usefulness and trustworthiness of Native officials who have filled high and responsible appointments in the public service. In speaking of the administrative capacity of Natives of India, Sir Richard Meade referred to the three most eminent Native statesmen of modern years—namely, Sir Salar Jung, of Hyderabad, Sir Dinkar Rao, of Gwalior, and Sir Madhava Rao, successively Dewan of Travancore, Indore and Baroda, with all of whom he had been intimately officially associated for many years. Sir Richard then went on to say:—"European officials of all grades, but especially of high position, in India have special duties of the most responsible nature—which cannot be made the subject of rules and regulations—to fulfil towards their native subordinates of all grades and classes, and the people generally under their rule. The duty of training, watching over and elevating the characters of their native subordinates is one of the most important of their responsibilities, and failure in realising what I may term the sacredness of that duty means failure in one of the greatest obligations they are under to the State. India is now passing through a crisis which requires the exercise of the most thoughtful judgment on the part of all European superiors who are in a position to influence the educated classes of the country, and they cannot turn that influence to better account than by applying it to aid in the establishment of a well-trained, loyal and efficient body of native officials, who are contented with their service, and who, being themselves of the educated classes, ought to influence beneficially those classes generally, and all with whom they are brought in contact." These noble words ought to be carefully borne in mind and acted upon by all high European officials engaged in the administration of this country.

General T. Denneby based his remarks on "the social relations of Europeans and Orientals" on his several years' experience in India, in passing most of his time in close and constant association with the people of the country. The average Anglo-Indian who keeps himself at a distance from the children of the soil would have the British public believe that caste is a great obstacle to social intercourse between Europeans and Natives. This idea, as General Denneby truly pointed out, arose from a mistaken misconception of caste. He observed:—"After all, it was possible to initiate and cement friendship in other ways than over the dinner table. The one thing necessary was sympathy, which should not be crushed by prejudice. It was often said that the British were not a sympathetic nation; but behind the mask of reserve which the Englishman assumed, real kindness and sympathy existed; and if only the Oriental could get behind this mask, no one could be more grateful than he for sympathy and kindness. Once known and understood, the European would find much to admire and appreciate in the Indian character. He himself was fortunate enough to possess many Indian friends, whom he had found to be good fellows, pleasant companions, and keen sportsmen. Many Indian gentlemen he had known who were as true and chivalrous as any Englishman could be, and it was worth some trouble to gain the intimacy and friendship of such men." The real obstacle to social intercourse between Europeans and Natives is not caste, for Englishmen do not mix socially even with those Indians who have either no caste or have thrown it off. The wide gulf that unfortunately divides the rulers from he ruled in this country is mainly caused by the ttter want of sympathy on the part of the European with the Native, whom he looks upon as pn inferior being.

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Latest News and Notes.

WE shall take our usual holiday next week.

TO-day is the last day of the grand national festival which has been looked forward to with eager expectation throughout the year by Hindus and non-Hindus. The festival has come and gone leaving us sadder than ever. The rejoicings in Calcutta have, as we have often remarked, been steadily falling off, and they have been less this year than the last. Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore, Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, Maharaja Durga Charan Law and Babu Ganesh Chunder Chunder have kept up the rejoicings, but Maharaj Kumar Binoy Krishna has had to curtail them owing to the recent death of his brother Maharaj Kumar Neel Krishna. The death of the good wife of Kaviraj Gungaprasad Sen, whose house used to be quite a centre of amusements, has cast a sombre gloom over the family. In Mofussil prospects of scarcity and disease have had their effect and the national festival has grown less in volume, magnitude and importance here also.

THE High Court commenced its close holidays on Thursday along with attorneys' offices. It will re-open on the 20th instant. As we have several times noticed during the earlier portion of the general holidays the vacation judges have had to sit oftner and dispose of more work than ever. This will lead, we trust, to the scandal of closing the Court a month before the *Puja* being stopped.

THE Tramway Company have arranged for a special steam service to Kally Ghat during the *Puja* days.

IT is now stated that His Excellency the Viceroy has consented to be present at the St. Andrew's Dinner on 30th November.

ACCORDING to a Simla telegram His Excellency the Viceroy will enter Srinagar in a State procession of boats on Friday, the 23rd instant, and on the following day visits will be exchanged, and a State banquet will be given in the evening. Among the excursions from Srinagar, his Excellency will visit Pampur, Bijbehara, Sallar, Pailgram, Aiskmakham, Bawan, Achabel, and Islamabad. As his departure from Srinagar, will be on the 8th of November, Sunday, it will be private. Reaching Rawalpindi on the 13th, his Excellency

halts next day at the Lieutenant-Governor's camp at Amritsar, and arrives at Gwalior at 9 A. M. on the 17th, and halts till the 20th, arriving in the evening of the same day at Bhopal, where he spends three days. From Khandwa his Excellency proceeds by Maharaja Holkar's State Railway, to Indore, arriving on the 24th, and leaving on the 26th. The journey will be continued by Itarsi, Jubbulpur, and Allahabad, the special train reaching Howrah on the 28th of November at 8-30, Calcutta time, the arrival being of a public character.

ALL the accused in the second batch of cases in connection with the Shambazar riot have been discharged. The Jury acquitted most of them unanimously and one of the Jurors was for the conviction of some. The Judge took time to consider the matter. On Tuesday he said he had decided to accept the verdict of the Jury and delivered judgment accordingly.

IT is announced that Mr. Gladstone will spend the autumn in Florence.

THE *Times* says that no successor to Sir Frederick Roberts in command of the troops in India has yet been named.

THE statue of Garibaldi, erected at Nice, has been unveiled by the local Mayor. Several Italian and French Deputies were present at the ceremony, and most cordial speeches were made. M. Rouvier, the Minister of Finance, speaking on behalf of Government, said that he warmly desired to see the closest *entente* between France and Italy.

DESPATCHES from Shanghai, dated the 3rd, via Sanfrancisco, state that it is expected that China will shortly pay all claims arising through the recent riots. The French claims for the destruction of property at Wuhu have already been settled. Military Governors will probably be appointed in the provinces, but the situation is still dangerous.

A LARGLY signed petition to the Magistrate of Howrah by inhabitants of several villages in the District draws attention to the condition of the District Road from Howrah to Jagathballavpur. The portion of it between Jhaparda and Jagathballavpur, the petitioners say, is in a specially deplorable state, and it is impossible even for cattle to pass. During the rainy season the road is so bad as to make it dangerous to pedestrians. The passage of carriages over it is altogether out of the question; and there being no bullock carts or palanquins procurable, the traveller has to wade through mud knee-deep. The District Board can, it is said, easily remove all these inconveniences, and it is prayed that the Magistrate should undertake a personal inspection of the whole road, with a view to remove the grievances of the petitioners.

IN SPITE of the determination of Nizam's officers not to allow reporters to be present at the examination of His Highness, by Commission, reports "by whatever means" have arrived in Calcutta by wire. On Monday four hours were taken up in the discussion as to whether the examination should go on in the absence of Mr. Jacob. He was keeping away, it was said, because he was apprehensive of his safety. The Commission adjourned to Tuesday on the prosecution paying the costs. Assurance of safety was wired to Mr. Jacob at Bombay on behalf of the Nizam's Government. The Commission was resumed on Tuesday, when two telegrams from Mr. Jacob were read saying that he is ill. The Commission, however, was to go on in his absence: he trusted in the Nizam's honor. Mr. Woodroffe offered an adjournment and the costs of Counsel to proceed to Bombay and bring up Mr. Jacob. Later on Mr. Inverarity said that the inference which he drew from the telegrams was that Mr. Jacob desired the Commission to proceed in his absence, and as the Resident said that he drew the same inference it was decided that the Nizam's examination should be proceeded with. Mr. Inverarity undertook that the admissibility of the Nizam's evidence would not be objected to on the ground of Mr. Jacob's absence. A telegram was subsequently received from Mr. Jacob saying that he agreed to any undertaking Mr. Inverarity gave on his behalf. The Nizam, affirmed and sworn on the Koran, was examined by Mr. Woodroffe. The examination which is described to have been labouriously slow was proceeded with on Wednesday and Thursday.

BABU Bishnu Chandra Maitra has written an able and thoughtful book in Bengali, which he calls *Apachaya-o-Unnati*. This rendered in English means 'waste and improvement.' The writer, in a lucid and forcible style, discusses various problems connected with his subject, both mental and physical. In support of positions taken up by him he introduces happy illustrations that serve to relieve the sombre gravity of general treatment of the work. Its perusal will, we are pursuaded, be most beneficial to the young, whose character has yet to be formed. It can be fitly introduced as a tex-book in our Schools.

WE regret to announce the death of Babu Jagat Durlabh Basu, Head Assistant to the Taxing Officer of the High Court. He belonged to a respectable family of Dasghara, in the District of Hughly, and was influentially connected. He was essentially a self-made man and his sterling qualities soon enabled him to rise to a position of importance. He was a man of thoroughly independent character and his ability and business habits won him the esteem of his official superiors and of all who had business relations with him. Pulmonary complaints, the serious character of which had not been suspected betimes, were the immediate cause of his death which took place early on Monday morning, and it was painfully sudden and unexpected. He leaves behind him a large family to mourn his untimely loss and a large number of people in the earning of whose livelihood he had very largely and cheerfully aided. He was a gentleman of the good old type, who never missed an opportunity to do his fellow-beings a good turn and the needy always found him a willing and capable helper.

SERICULTURE continues to engage the serious attention of the Government of Bengal. It has provided a sum of Rs. 5,000 for expenditure on silk experiments during the current financial year.

SCARCITY in Madras is steadily on the increase inspite of roseate official reports. A further grant of one lakh has been sanctioned for expenditure in the affected districts.

A NUMBER of French pilgrims, while visiting the Pantheon, were accused of insulting the tomb of Victor Emmanuel. A riot ensued, and the pilgrims were assailed by a large crowd, which afterwards paraded the streets of the city, hooting the pilgrims, their hotels, and the French Embassy.

REFERRING to the Hydrabad Diamond Commission the *Statesman* observes:—

The unfortunato manifeste of the Nizam of Hyderabad apparently presents itself in very much the same light to the native public of this part of India as to ourselves. Thus, the *Hindoo Patriot*, while expressing no opinion regarding its merits, pronounces it premature and inconvenient. "It is a sort of address on behalf of the prosecution out of Court which must tend to prejudice the defence, though it may be his Highness' 'earnest desire that Mr. Jacob, whatever cause his Highness may have of complaint against him, should have a fair trial and the fullest opportunity of defending himself.' His Highness' subjects might well have afforded to wait for his explanation till the trial was over." We are strongly of opinion that they might well have afforded to wait a good deal longer; though, as we have already remarked, this is a point on which the Nizam's advisers are probably better able to judge than we are. Unfortunately there is a great deal in the manifesto which it could not be necessary for the Nizam to explain to his subjects at all, and the introduction of which inevitably suggests inferences which the Nizam should have been especially careful to avoid suggessting. This and other features of the affair are the more to be regretted that, but for the suspicioons they create, the sympathies of all right-minded people would have been with the Nizam in his final resolution, however brought about, not to commit himself to what at the best would have been a profligate waste of the resources of the State. What particular steps he could have taken, consistently with both justice and generosity, to extricate himself from the position in which the negotiations had placed him, we cannot, of course, undertake to say. For the question what his legal position was at the time the negotations were broken off still remains to be authoritatively decided. But it is extremely difficult to believe that, whatever the legal position was, he could not have extricated himself in a way which would have averted the present scandal, and satisfied every reasonable claim, at comparatively small sacrifice.

IT looks like war, judging, at all events by economic signs. The War Office in London has requested the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to furnish estimates for the conveyance of troops from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The arrangements for trooping trains on frontier railways are also being pushed on with vigour and the premium on Government securities is steadily going down. The *Englishman*, however, observes that "the news regarding the expulsion of Captain Younghusband and his companion from Wakhan has been confirmed, though according to a Simla correspondent the Amir of Kabul makes little of Russian supremacy in the Little and Alichur Pamirs. The question raised, is undoubtedly one of importance, for if the Russian claims are allowed, the long looked for meeting of the Russian and Indian frontiers has practically arrived. Gilgit which we hold at present for Kashmir, is only separated from Wakhan by the western portion of Hunza, which can be crossed in two or three days' march. Beyond the fact that the acquisition of the territory claims by the Russians would bring their frontier close to our own, the pretensions put forward by Captain Grombchevtsky are not of a nature to justify the alarm that has already found expression." The Amir, if sensible, would not hatch a quarrel about no body's land, particularly when there will be no British bayonets to support His Highness, as there certainly will not be, if British counsels be not followed. Captain Younghusband writes under date 15th September that he is on his way back to India.

IN view of the contemplated meeting of the National Congress in England next year, opinion of Pandits is being taken as to liability to lose caste by Hindu delegates proceeding on this mission, provided they do not take forbidden food. It is expected that a satisfactory solution will be arrived at.

THERE is great dissatisfaction among members of the Subordinate Judicial Service, owing to announcements of the annual transfers being postponed till after the commencement of the holidays. The usual practice was for these announcements to be made slightly before the holidays so that the officers concerned might make the necessary arrangements of their own and make over charge. This would obviate the necessity of having to go back to their old stations and then on again to the new. A long string of transfers of Munsiffs was announced in the last number of the *Calcutta Gazette* and the Subordinate Judges may have to wait for another week or more, which will put most of them to great inconvenience. They cannot go out for the usual holiday tours that most of them undertake for the benefit of their health, owing to their not being at all certain of their position. This innovation is unintelligible although the suggestion is that by making the announcements during the holidays, Government would save a great deal of the travelling allowance. It was supposed that the transfers would be made only to the neighbouring districts and the number of

"joining day" would also be reduced. This would perhaps be an economic arrangement but would involve extreme hardship on the officers. In the first place they would have to go back, as we have pointed out, to their old stations, and in the second the officers in unhealthy localities would be obliged to remain in the same neighbourhood for almost double the time that would otherwise be the case. There is a talk of doing away with some of the Mafussil Courts of Small Causes and of restoring Small Cause Court work to the ordinary Civil Courts, and it is said that the transfers of Subordinate Judges will be regulated accordingly. We can hardly credit this, for it would be an inconvenient course to follow, while no sufficient reasons have been assigned for it.

LUCKNOW is suffering most fearfully from floods just now. They are on an unprecedented scale and the city for the most part is under water. Disease and scarcity on a large scale are apprehended. The following extract from a telegram to the *Englishman* will give an idea of the magnitude of the distress :—

The roadway in front of the Club was deep under water, and all access to the Chutter Munzil was cut off by way of the Mall. As the day drew on, the river steadily rose, and at noon not only was a large part of the city under water, but the parks were several feet deep under the flood, and the area presented all the appearance of a vast lake. Practically the whole of that part of the city is now uninhabitable, and the occupants of the shops and houses of all sorts have had to make a most hurried departure, even at the cost of considerable loss in property of every description. But the inundation is by no means limited to the city. All around the station the flood is steadily encroaching on parts to which, within the memory of the oldest residents, the overflow of the river has never reached before. For example considerably beyond the entrance to the Bank of Bengal, the water is surging up, and it seems not improbable that the Mall thereabouts will be reached, should there not be a subsidence of the flood during the next few hours. To those who know Lucknow, a fair idea of the extent of the flood encroachments will be gathered when it is mentioned that the house on the elevated site, abutting on Bruce's Bridge, is sorrounded on the land side by some hundreds of yards of deep water, so that the occupant is altogether cut off from the Courts unless by boats. The Moti Mahal and its big enclosures are swamped, albeit miniature bunds are being hurriedly built. Extending right to the police lines, the waste of waters reaches the new Talukdars' College which rears its imposing front on the banks of our now very big river, a veritable Mississipi, where the puny Gumpti was wont to flow. As for the N. W. P. Company's Ice factory, the buildings are pretty well neck deep in their interior, and the place is in great danger. The pile bridge has been washed away drawing five men who were on it. On Monday morning the Station Library was giving admission to the flood, and the underground tykanas are filled. The Judicial Commissioner's Court has the river right up to the doors, and Mr. Young's house is in very much the same plight. Numerous villages on the banks of the river have been swamped. Close at our doors the village of Sultanganj has gone, and the washed-out people from the various reaches of the stream are pouring into Lucknow for shelter, carrying what remains of property they can. This will add sensibly to the local distress, and increase the cost of food stuffs, as all trans-Gumpti supplies are pretty well cut off for the time being. Indeed, what with the injury done to private and public property added to the immense increase of pauperism which will necessarily be a resultant of the floods, there is a grim look out for the poor during the winter. The villages about the Martiniere College are wholly submerged, and the class rooms on the ground floor of the institution are under water, so that work will not be resumed by the boys until next week at the earliest. The Wingfield Park in the lower portions is deep under water, which has been supplied by the old canal, and the flood extends a considerbale distance into Messrs. Peake Allen's compound. Various theories are afloat as to the cause of the great floods, the favourite one being that a big bund on the Ramganga has burst.

According to later intelligence the floods are subsiding. With the cities of Northern India in floods like this, the state of affairs in lower countries will soon be worse.

ON the death of Madame Blavatsky Mrs Annie Beasant, a pronounced free-thinker until lately, has come into power in the Theosophic camp. It is said occultism does not command her attention so much as Theosophy. 'As a Theosophist,' she said recently, 'I will do my best to spread the philosophical and ethical teachings of Theosophy, by arguments addressed to the reason, and by appeals to the emotions and instincts of men.' Mrs. Beasant comes on an Indian tour next cold weather and is expected to reach Bombay on the 13th December. She has arranged to stay at Calcutta from the 7th to the 13th January, when she will deliver a series of lectures. She leaves for England towards the end of February.

SOME nervous Anglo-Indians have been exercised a good deal over the drilling of an "awkward squad of native lads without arms" and demand who the sepoys could be deputed by, that further such a dangerous movement. A correspondent re-assures these fidgetty men as follows :—

The "lads' belong to a Police School, kept by a late European Superintendent of Police, which holds its sessions in the Presidency College, and which was visited some time ago and favourably commented upon by some of the higher officers of the Police service. As to the object of drilling these "cadets without arms," which your correspondent evidently regards to be a mysterious and perhaps an invidious one, I can assure him that it is nothing more or less than to fit them for the service which they intend to enter after thoroughly qualifying for it. But apart from these drillings in connection with Police schools, I should like to see drilling introduced as a supplement to the general course of instruction imparted in our schools and colleges. Drills are calculated to create a habit of regularity, readiness, and extractness, which can seldom be taught in the class-room. Moreover, it would produce another very beneficial effect in the way of giving physical diversion to a large body of Indian students, whose life is generally of a sedentary character. It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I learn that Mr. Harry Lee, who has kindly accepted the presidentship of the atheltic section of the newly-formed Society for the Higher Training of Hindu Young Men, has procured the services of Sergeant Eaton, of the Buffs, who has consented to give lessons in drilling and other athletic sports to the members of that Society once every week in the grounds of "the out-of-the-way college in the native town." Indian students should be thankful to Mr. Lee for the interest he takes in their welfare, and should show their appreciation of this sympathy by joining in large numbers the Society for the Higher Training of Young Men, and by taking advantage of the instructions imparted by Sergeant Eaton in connection with it.—

A MEETING of the Board of Trustees of the Eden Hindu Hostel was held on Saturday, the 26th September, 1891. Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, K. C. I. E., Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C. S. I., Rai Kanai Lal Dey Bahadur, C. I. E., Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesa Chandra Nyaratna C. I. E., and Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukherji Bahadur were present and Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna was in the chair. The Board resolved—that at the request of the General Committee of the Eden Hindu Hostel Building Fund, the Board of Trustees should take over charge of the Hostel and its management together with all assets and liabilities, subject to the conditions laid down in the Draft Lease as approved by the Government of Bengal and the General Committee above named. It was also resolved that three members of the Board should constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the Board of Trustees. Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesa Chandra Nyaratna C. I. E. and Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukherji Bahadur were appointed Honorary Secretaries to the Board of Trustees. It was decided that meetings of the Board should be held at least once a quarter, and oftener, if necessary. It being desirable to have official visitors of the Hostel, the following gentlemen have been requested to accept the office of visitors.

Hon'ble Justice Guru Das Banerjea, D. L.
C. H. Tawney Esq. C. I. E.
H. Lee Esq. B. C. S.
Brigade Surgeon E. A. Brich M. D.

The following resolutions were also adopted :—

That a representation be made to the Government of Bengal humbly suggesting the desirablity of Government appointing the Director of Public Instruction for the time being as a Government Trustee and President of the Board of Trustees.

That a Sub-Committee consisting of Raja Peary Mohun Mukherji, Babu Nilmani Mitter and the two Honorary Secretaries be requested to revise the rules for the management of the Hostel, to examine the accounts and to offer any suggestions that may appear to be necessary for the better or more economical management of the Hostel.

That so long as the revised rules do not come into operation the rules at present in force be continued.

That the present staff of officers and servants attached to the Hostel be continued, subject to such changes as may from time to time be made by the Honorary Secretaries.

That a copy of these proceedings be submitted to the Government of Bengal for information through the Director of Public Instruction.

FOUR distinguished men of Great Britain died last week. They are Right Hon'ble W. H. Smith, Mr. Charles Stewart Parnell, Sir John Pope Hennessey and Sir James Longden. The latter two were Colonial Governors of note, whilst the former two were in the fore-front of the politicians of their day. The death of the leader of the House of Commons is a sad loss to the Conservative party, while Mr. Parnell's death, when the times are so much out of joint, will shake Home rule in Ireland more than ever.

WE publish in another column an advertisement from Messrs. James Monteith & Co. Their Boots and Shoes and Saddles and Harnesses of different descriptions are of world-wide fame. Their stock is varied and well-chosen, and noblemen and gentlemen, who come to the metropolis during the holidays, will, we doubt not, find their articles well worthy of their attention.

MESSRS. COOKE AND KELVEY, the well-known Jewellers of this city, have thrown open their spacious show-room for the holidays. The splendid stock of their jewels and jewelleries and various other valuable ornaments and fancy articles for presentation are sure to attract attention for their fineness of workmanship. We would recommend to our wealthy men a visit to Messrs. Cooke and Kelvey's show-room at this season.

MILL-industry in Calcutta is just now under a ban and nobody knows how matters will end. The Smoke Nuisance Act is put in force at the instance of neighbours and a sympathetic Court "awards the highest punishment prescribed by law", as has been done in a recent case. There must always be some amount of nuisance attending all industries and if proper diligence is exercised in minimising it, grounds of complaint ought to cease to exist to a considerable degree. This ought to be the criterion in these cases, as otherwise mill industries must come to a standstill. Adoption of proper preventive appliances ought certainly to be insisted on in the heart of the town, but if mill-owners have to be punished for the mere fact of their concern proving a technical nuisance, arrangements for removal of all mills from Calcutta should be made. Perhaps that would be an improvement, as many other impracticable things would. But the question has to be regarded from various points of view, one of which is that of landowners, the value of whose property will be deteriorated by such arrangements. In London where smoke is as much a ground of complaint as fog, inspite of climatic considerations, they manage matters pretty satisfactorily and so also in all the centres of industry in Europe and America. Improvement by extinction may be very good, but is inconvenient. Magistrates do not always adopt this unreasonable view and at times some sympathy is shown for mill-owners. Some time ago a prosecution was started against Roybagan mill-owners and the prosecution failed. The plea was that all reasonable precautions had been and were being taken. It was accepted, and Mr. R. D. Mehta who tried the case, delivered the following judgment :—

8th May 1890
Corporation of Calcutta
vs.
1 Dvijendro Nath Banerjee a partner of Banerjee & Co.
and
2 Nunda Kumar Dutta partner of Bysack & Co.
No. 24 Roybagan Street.

Judgment

In this case the defendants are charged with committing a nuisance by working 2 flour and oil mills at Roybagan and thereby causing smoke to be emitted

through the chimneys, evidence being adduced on behalf of both parties. Certain Engineers have been called on behalf of the defence, viz. Mr. John Harper of the Engineering Firm of Messrs. Marshall Son & Co. Ld. and Mr. William John Collins, Engineer to the Boiler Commission, and they both testify to the Engines and Boilers being in perfect condition as also the chimneys, and therefore they were of opinion that there was no nuisance nor could there be any. I held a local inspection in the presence of Mr. Geo, Dickson, Assistant Engineer to the Municipal Corporation, and I found that there was no nuisance, in which opinion Mr. Dickson also agreed. Under these circumstances I have no other alternative than to dismiss the case and discarge the defandants. I order accordingly.

(Sd.) R. D. Mehta
Hony, Presy, Magistrate, Calcutta

THE Secretaries to the Vidyasagar Memorial Committee have issued an appeal for subscriptions. The appeal is as follows :

At a public meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta and the Suburbs held at the Town Hall under the presidency of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, on the 27th August last, it was resolved to raise a suitable memorial in honor of the late venerable Pandit Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar and to invite subscriptions for the purpose. A Committee was, at the same time, appointed to give effect to this Resolution. The Committee now appeal to the public for subscriptions to enable them to perform a duty which has been imposed upon them by the public voice and to raise an adequate memorial in honour of a truly great man. There have been numerous meetings and demonstrations, all over the country, to express a nation's sorrow at the great loss which has been sustained by the death of Pandit Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar. The time has now arrived when these manifestations of national sorrow must find expression in some tangible memorial, which while it would be an adequate testimony of our gratitude, would perpetuate the goodness and beneficence of the illustrious dead. Many suggestions have been made as to the form of the memorial that should be raised. It has, for example, been suggested that a free boarding-house for poor students should be founded in honour of Vidyasagar's memory in which students would not only be accommodated without any charge, but their schooling fees would also be paid out of the memorial fund under such arrangements as may be made. The establishment of a hospital in connection with an independent school of medicine started by Indian gentlemen has also been recommended. The endowment of a chair in connection with Sanskrit learning has occurred to many as a suitable means of honouring the memory of one who took a prominent part in the promotion of Sanskrit learning. It seems to the Committee somewhat premature to discuss these and other similar schemes which may be suggested. The form which the memorial should take can best be decided after the funds have been collected. But evidently all are agreed that the bulk of the subscriptions should be devoted to some useful and beneficent purpose which would be in keeping with the spirit of the great man, whose worth it is now proposed to commemorate. It is therefore with some measure of confidence that the Committee appeal to the public for subscriptions in aid of a memorial which the Committee confidently hope would be a memorial of usefulness and beneficence, worthy alike of the country and one of the greatest men that it has produced.

His Highness the Maharaja of Kuch Behar has responded to the appeal with a subscription of 2,500 rupees and Maharaj Kumar Benoya Krishna has subscribed Rs. 1000. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has subscribed Rs. 1,00 and other subscriptions are also coming in. But their inflow is not as rapid as might be desired. A great deal will depend upon the exertions of the members of the Committee, which is as large as representative. There is one matter which strikes us as very important in this connection and that is that there should be as much concentration of energies and resources as possible. As we remarked in a recent issue, numerous memorial meetings are being held all over the country which are adopting different kinds of memorials of their own. This is much to be regretted, for it would be only frittering away of energies without perhaps any appreciable addition to the success of the movement as a whole. If different localities or institutions under any peculiar circumstances think proper to have separate memorials of their own, let them have them by all means. But let the bulk of the available funds find its way to the Central Committee so that a really good memorial may be raised.

THE Burdwan paper writes that a few days ago, a case of gross outrage on a respectable Hindu lady occurred in a third-class railway carriage, at Asansole. The railway authorities we understand, are making a searching inquiry about it.

AT Thursday's meeting of the Legislative Council, the Punjab and Burma Municipal Bills were passed.

THE Income Tax agitation is gathering strength. The *Statesman* alluding to the recent Resolution and its practical modification by Sir Charles Elliott, says :—

The weak point in the reply of Sir Charles Elliott to the deputation of the Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the recent Income-Tax Resolution has not escaped the attention of the *Hindoo Patriot*. It will be noticed, our contemporary observes, that the Lieutenant-Governor's qualification of the terms of the Resolution applies only to a certain section of the mercantile community and leave the rest untouched. "This," it continues, "will be considered as hardly satisfactory, and will give point to the gathering agitation, though the European merchants may now be again as loath to join it as ever." If we are rightly imformed, there is no ground for the doubt expressed in the last of the above sentence. What the Chamber of Commerce felt, in dealing with the Resolution, probably was that the general question was not in any way involved in the passages which specially called for its reprobation, and that it would be better, as well as more logical, under circumstances, to stick to the text. In this there is a good deal of justice. On the other hand, as we have already pointed out, the general question of the suitability of the tax to the conditions of the country is raised very plainly by what, although it was not dealt with by the deputation, is really the most objectionable part of the Resolution. We refer to the injunction that, in assessing the tax, allowance should be made for what were described as "peculiarities" in the habits and accounts of the mercantile classes. If the author of the Resolution meant to insinuate that the features in question were peculiar to the mercantile classes of this country, or their accounts, he said what was grossly unjust; and if he did not mean this, the injunction was as uncalled for as it is certain to prove mischievous if acted on. The remark of a writer on the subject in yesterday's number of *Capital*, that an income-tax, to be tolerable, must be based upon positive testimony, and not upon conjecture, and that, if it cannot be worked on these lines in India, it is, *ipso facto*, an unsuitable tax for India, is, it seems to us, absolutely unanswerable. It is true enough that it is not in India only that the assessing authorities are empowered to surcharge assessees when they consider the accounts submitted by them uutrustworthy. But it is certainly only in India that it would be possible for a Government to instruct its officers to take accounts generally *cum grano*, without special ground for doubting their accuracy. If, in order to the effective administration of the tax, the department must be allowed *carte blanche* to make "allowance" for general considerations implying a mere possibility of fraud, there must be an end of the tax, or the agitation to which the *Patriot* refers will assume formidable dimensions and embrace all classes of the community who are liable either to pay it, or to be called upon to pay for not paying it.

Correspondence.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London, August 21, 1891.

THE GOVERNMENT'S INDIAN COUNCILS BILLS.

THE full report published for the first time in the latest issue of "*India*" of what occurred upon the report stage of the Indian Budget Bill, enables us to see, if not to understand, more clearly the extraordinary position taken up by the Government upon their Indian Councils Bill, and their reasons for its withdrawal. Before noticing Sir John Gorst's statement, however, it is desirable to refer to a letter from Lord Cross of the 28th July (a week before Sir John Gorst's statement in the House) in reply to communications from the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, expressing "the deep regret with which they viewed the withdrawal by Her Majesty's Government of the Indian Councils Amendment Bill." In that letter Lord Cross said he regretted that circumstances for which the Government were not responsible, had rendered it impossible to proceed further at present with the Bill; but he hoped that it would be re-introduced at the earliest opportunity and dealt with effectively during the next Session of Parliament. Sir John Gorst's statement has the advantage of allowing us to see what these circumstances, for which the Government were not responsible, are at least in the Under-Secretary's view. It is possible, however, that, considering what remarkable cross purposes have in so many instances declared themselves between chief and subordinate, that Sir John may be indulging himself in another personal outburst like that with which we were treated during the Manipur discussion. However there it stands as the only explanation offered in Parliament upon the matter and it is as follows: "This Bill, he saide as it stood, was a very small measure. It was a Bill which had to carry out a reform which every body desired, to which the Government had given their assent and which gentlemen, who may be called the "Indian Congress Party" had repeatedly solicited, and there was nothing to prevent the people of India enjoying the benefit of these improvements in the constitution during the last three years except that the hon. member for Crewe (Mr. McLaren) and his friends—those gentlemen who profess to represent in this House the opinion of India—chose to use this extremely simple and small measure as a peg on which to hang a discussion of the whole constitution of India, and a proposal to introduce into the constitution of India what they vaguely call "representative institutions," as to the nature of which they are not themselves agreed, and the consequences of which they have themselves no conception whatever. Well, although the Bill is a small one, the question which is bring on it is a question of extreme importance and one which certainly ought not to be lightly passed by this House without ample and complete discussion." Becoming still more emphatic and precise in his statement of what the consequences of the action of this wicked Congress party had been and would be Sir John Gorst continued :—"In consequence of the appendage which the hon. gentlemen opposite themselves placed on this very modest measure of reform, it has been found impossible by the Government in either of the past Sessions of Parliament to devote that time which is necessary to the consideration of a matter so important to the future interests of India. I cannot promise that the House of Commons in the coming Session will have leisure to discuss and and decide this great constitutional question, and I am afraid that if the hon. member for Crewe and his friends persist in the course they have adopted for the past three years, the people of India will have to wait a little longer before they can enjoy those modest, but excellent reforms precursed so long ago by the viceroy." In view of the very extraordinary statement thus made Mr. McLaren might well wish there should be no misunderstanding about its meaning—he probably remembered Sir John's desire to soften down his famous "mediocrity" speech and he accordingly asked whether Sir John wished to indicate that those who are in favour to some extent of the Indian Congress Bill should have let this Government Bill go through without discussion, and whether the complaint was that they attempted to discuss the Bill and widen its scope. To this though the answer was a denial yet he went on to say that he did complain that they should take advantage of the Bill to introduce a much larger and more comprehensive measure. "It was perfectly in order to do so. but it had the effect of rendering the small reforms projected by the Viceroy of India and Her Majesty's Government perfectly impossible.

Thus it is clear that according to Sir John Gorst the "uncontrollable circumstances" are that Her Majesty's Government were afraid

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of the "Congress party" introducing amendment which should raise the question of the introduction of an elective element into the Councils. So afraid are they, that they apparently are prepared to defer the Bill indefinitely rather than give an opportunity for raising such a discussion in the House; and they confess themselves frightened into this by a party at whom they affect to sneer and whom they profess to despise. Upon the whole there has not been a stranger statement made for many a day in the House of Commons. To enunciate such absurdities in the case of English legislation would cover the man who made them with ridicule, and if the matter mere one as important in the eyes of the English electorate as that of the India Councils Bill is to India, the Ministry who put forward such futilities would find itself in an unenviable position at the polls. It is not possible to concieve of the Government after they had come to the conclusion that free education for example was a promising popular measure, declining to so on with it because they understood amendments were to be proposed extending the principle of public control over all schools which should benefit by the Government. Such amendments if carried would have been fatal to the principles they profess as a party; and in fact so grave was the danger that the consequence dreaded would follow from the Bill, that their supporters urged upon them the desirability of dropping the Bill. But in such a matter they had more courage, their electoral prospects were of absorting interest to them. If they had felt half so keen an interest in the welfare of India their courage could not have been less; and they would not have resorted to such unworthy and disingemous pretences.

THE DRAIN FROM INDA TO ENGLAND.

Nothing has more directed the attention of the British public of late to the underlying realities of our relations with India than the striking fact of the immense export of wheat from India at a time when the lives of thousands seemed threaten of the impending famine. The "drain from India" was a phrase with which we were well acquainted but which needed to be brought home by such dramatic circumstances as the railways carriying enormous supplies of grain from the country where people seemed to be about to perish for lack of food. It has startled many into an enquiry which reveals another set of facts than those which we are in the habit of accepting in a simple faith which may be expressed with some such words as Browning used in reference to the Providential order of the universe—"Englishmen are in the country; all's right with India." We are awakening to the fact that a Government may have a surplus of revenue over expenditure and keep its accounts in order, while all the time even with the admittedly good and honest Government such as India has, there may be economical conditions which are slowly sapping the prosperity of the people at large although certain classes may flourish and in many respects the country may be rapidly progressing as judged by its adoption of the principal appliances of modern civilization. That such a state of things exists in India is becoming a recognized truth which must be taken as complementary to the more enphimistic views which have long been prevalent; and we are beginning to understand what Indians mean when they maintain that English Government, good as in many respects it is, is also in many others grievously burdensome. There are signs of the increasing influence of the small band of men who are deeply impressed with these unfortunate conditions, and who have been trying to arouse the conscience of the English public with little success hitherto. The general tone of the press is improving, and we do not see so much of that inclinations to decry and howl down those who venture to point out the facts commonly kept in the background by the older and orthodox interpreters of India to England. In short, nothing less than a revelation is gradually but surely being made to the English mind upon these matters and it is impossible to estimate the consequences which a change of public opinion here may have upon the Government of India when once it is understood that our relations with India are not wholly productive of blessings but are attended by serious injustices. Speaking generally it is the higher and middle classes who are mostly conservative and least accessible to ideas of this kind and hence there is a special importance to be attached to all utterances appearing in quarters which take their inspiration from conservative sources. For this reason I may be allowed to quote somewhat largely from a journal —the "Anti-Jacobin"—which presents a view of Indian matters which would be viewed with suspicion and disbelief by many if they read the like in journals connected with the Liberal party who are inclined more usually to sympathise with the Indian reformers. This is what the 'Anti-Jacobin" says:—"No one can wish to under-rate the benefits which our honest, strong, and just Government has conferred upon the Natives of India. But it must be remembered, in balancing the account, that while India pays its own expenses, supports part of our army and costs us nothing, we, on the other hand, derive great wealth from our possession of India. Supposing that a rival power drove us out of India, stopped payment of all pensions, interest and dividends from India to England and entirely closed the ports of India to us, we should be half ruined. We should overlook real Indian grievances, nor assume that the relation between England and India benefits India only. At any rate we might treat India with more generosity in some financial matters. For instance, we might refrain from an occasional (somewhat hypocritical) attempts to prevent, under the name of free-trade or shortening hours of labour, the growth of Indian industries which may compete with Lancashire. The English tax-payer contributes nothing to the cost of the Indian Army or the cost of strengthening the Indian frontier, yet would he be a heavy pecuniary loser if we lost India. We might, at least pay for the Indian office in London as we do for the Colonial office, and not load that valuable institution upon the back of the Indian taxpayer. Finally, with all deference to the Cobden Club, we may have to consider some day whether the unlimited export of corn from India to England is all that can be desired." As to this latter point the case is put as follows:—"This food is drawn from India by the superior power of suction which, under a free trade regime, a richer country possesses over a poorer one. A price of corn which is cheap in Enland may be almost a starvation price in India. The English consumer being able to pay more for his food can, in the course of the ordinary struggle for existence, draw away food from the native of India. In the second place, a great deal of the corn which come from India must be taken as coming, not in exchange for English goods but, in payment of annual interest on the debt owing by India to England in respect of capital at various times lent to the Indian Government by Englishmen. Every year the Indian Government has to transmit to London an enormous sum in respect partly of pensions, but chiefly in payment of dividends upon capital invested in public loans and State railways. To produce this sum the Indian Government has to raise a larger land revenue than it otherwise would do. To pay the revenue the peasant must sell his corn. English importers of corn buy the Indian Government bills in London, send them to India to be cashed, and so pay for the corn. In this way, roughly speaking, the annual sixteen millions sterling are remitted to England in the shape (in part at least) of cheap corn. In other words an annual corn tribute is paid by India to England. "Last census showed a total growth of thirty millions in India during a single decade, the question how all these millions are to be fed while a richer nation is drawing part of their food away is likely to be come a serious one."

There are several items in this remittance account of over Rx. 22,000,000 worth mentioning in detail. For the India Office there is Rx 260,000; for the Army Effective Home Charges of British forces serving in India about Rx. 1,400,000; for civil and marine furlough Rx. 290,800, for military Rx. 410,400, for telegraph Rx. 6,800 and for public works furlough Rx. 80,700. For non-effective charges we have Rx. 1,397,300 and for military Rx. 3,854,500.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

To

SIR. JOHN EDGAR K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3284J. dated the 27th ultimo forwarding copy of a Draft Bill to amend the law with reference to Chowkidars and Punchayets and to submit, by direction of the Committee of the British Indian Association the following observations on the same.

The Committee desire at the outset to express their satisfaction and to convey their thanks to Government for promptly taking up the question of reform of the village police and formulating in a Draft Bill the recommendations of the Police Committee appointed in August, 1889. The general scope and a good many of the detailed provisions of the Draft measure appear to them to be quite unexceptional. In a large number of the Sections of the Draft Bill the provisions of Act 6 of 1870 as amended by Act 1 of 1886 have been reproduced and in some cases judiciously modified, but in the midst of a number of alterations which the Committee consider as improvements upon the present law there are some points in the Draft Bill which the Committee submit require further consideration. These they will now proceed to examine seriatim.

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Section 3. By reason of the changed circumstances of the country and the altered relation between landholders and their ryots brought about by recent legislation and the village police the Police Committee recommend (No. 22 of the summary of recommendations) that landholders should be relieved of the duty of reporting crime to the Police and the Magistrate. In that view the Committee submit that in the 1st Schedule mentioned in this Section the following Regulations should be included. Section 10. Regulation 1 of 1811, Section 4 Regulation 3 of 1812, and Section 2 Regulation 8 of 1814. They are aware that even if these provisions be reapealed the liability of landholders on this score will continue under the provisions of Section 45 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Although the nature of the obligations which that Section imposes upon landholders is materially different from that imposed by the old Regulations, the Committee venture to submit that it is just on all grounds that that Section of the Procedure Code should be modified to free the landholders from t' is burden.

Section 4. The definition of Magistrates given includes Honorary Magistrates but looking to the use of the word in Section 10, 22, 26, 36, 41, and other Sections the Committee think that the word should be more carefully defined.

Section 15. The determination of the number of Chowkidars to be employed in a village is vested by the present law on the Punchayet. The Police Committee recommend (No. 5 of the Summary) that that discretion should be exercised subject to the control of the District Magistrate. The Draft Bill however vests the power solely upon the District Magistrate. The Committee think that the proposed change would be opposed to the scope of the Police Committee's recommendations and opposed to the principle that the members of the Punchayet being residents of the village are better able to judge of its requirements regarding watch and ward, and they would therefore submit that the Police Committtee's recommendation should be given effect to. It will be seen that the change here suggested would render the Section harmonious with Section 61 which latter should otherwise have to be modified.

Section 22. The word "may" after magistrate should be changed into "shall"

Section 23. As the assessment list may be published under Section 20 a month before the end of the year, it will have effect before the end of the year. It is desirable that it should be provided in this section that the assessment shall take effect from the beginning of the following year.

Section 30. The word "may" in the 3rd line from the bottom should be "shall."

Section 31. The word "to" in the 4th line from the bottom should be "by."

Section 33. Although the present law provides for a penalty equal in amount to the amount of arrears, it has always been felt as a great hardship. The Committee think that the penalty should be one-fourth the amount of default and they would submit therefore that sections 33 and 85 be modified accordingly.

Section 50. When an estate has been let in Putni, Durputni and other subordinate tenure it is the landholder or propietor of the last degree who enjoys the services of the chakran-holding Chowkidars, but on obvious grounds it would be undiserable to settle the lands with any but the revenue paying zemindar. The provision for the settlement of the and with the Zemindars is therefore quite unassailable. But it is clear that so long as the Putni or other tenure lasts it is the Putnidar or other tenure-holder who should be put in possession of the land and should be made liable for the payment of half the assessment as is done by sec 51. The effect of the sections as they stand at present is to force the Putnidar or other landholder to sue the Zemindar for abatement of the Putni rent to the extent of half the assessment but even such a suit does not set matters right as the Putnidar remains liable to pay half the rent to the Chowkidaree fund although he is not put in possession of the resumed Chakran land. In order to prevent this confusion the Committee would suggest the addition of a proviso to section 50 to the following effect.

"Provided that when an estate has been let in Putni or other tenure the Zemindar shall be bound to enter into a supplementary settlement with the tenureholders of the lowest degree on the terms of the settlement taken by him from the Collector."

Section 54.—In the place of the words "without any preliminary notice for payment" it is desirable that the words "after service of a preliminary notice upon the defaulter" should be substituted. The Committee need not dwell upon the justice and expediency of the change here suggested, It would be in consonance with the procedure at present followed in regard to the recovery of arrears of Cesses and Zemindari dawk charge and with the procedure which the Committee understand has been proposed n the case of arrears of revenue.

Sections 57–60.—In the Draft Bill these sections have been simply reproduced from the present Act. But it is time that the object of these sections and of section 65 should be clearly defined. If the object of these sections be to exclude from the operation of the Act Ghatwalee, Phareedaree, Pyekan and such other Police lands, it would be well to modify the language of these sections so as to make these sections applicable to all police lands other than those covered by section 4 Regulation 8 of 1793 to which alone sections 47–56 apply. The description of these other police lands in section 60 as "Chowkidari chakran landk" makes the matter hopelessly complex.

Sections 67–69. The Committee are unable to understand the object of these sections. They do not provide for any exceptional class of cases of which the Committee can think as requiring special legislation nor do they provide for any special circumstances pointed out by the Police Committee. The Committee of the British Indian Association are of opinion that the powers vested in the District Magistrate by sections 7 and 9 are enough for all practical purposes and that these sections may well be omitted.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your most obedient servant,
RAJKUMAR SARVADHIKARI,
Secretary, British Indian Association.
September 26, 1891.

Government Notification

Calcutta Gazette—*October 7, 1891.*

GENERAL.—Mr. R. W. Carlyle, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Chitagong, is allowed furlough for one year, under Article 340 (*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 15th November next.

Kumar Gopendra Krishua Deb, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Nuddea, is allowed leave for three months, under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved of his present appointment by Mr. F. F. Handley.

Kumar Gopendra Krishna Deb is also appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors with effect from the above date.

Mr. H. G. Sharp, Magistrate and Collector of Bogra, is allowed leave for three months, under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 22nd October, 1891, or from such date as he may be relieved.

Mr. E. B. Harris, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Jessore, on leave is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Bogra, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. G. Sharp, or until further orders.

Mr. E. G. Grake Brockman, Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs is allowed leave from the 23rd instant to the 7th proximo, inclusive, under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. C. W. Bolton, Officiating Secetary to the Board of Revenue, is allowed leave for two weeks under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the 20th October, 1891.

Babu Ashutosh Bhuttacharji, Probationary Deputy Collector, Burdwan, is allowed leave for filteen days under Article 273 (*a*) of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the 21st proximo.

Moulvi Dilwar Hossein Ahemd, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bhaugulpore is allowed leave for one month and eleven days under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the 20th proximo or from such date as he may be relieved.

Moulvi Mahummud Abdullah, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Gya is allowed leave for six weeks under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the 20th October 1891.

Babu Deno Nath Dey, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Contai, Midnapore is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that District.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Dutt, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bogra, is allowed leave for two months and three days under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the afternoon of the 18th September, 1891.

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Babu Atal Behari Moitra Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Julpigori, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Burdwan District.

Babu Shyamapada Chowdhry Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Burdwan is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Julpigori District.

Mr. C. Cuthberson, C. S. has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of furlough for six months on medical certificate.

Police—Mr. C. C. Plowden, Assistant Superintendent of Police, in charge of the District Police, Burdwan is promoted to the first grade of Assistant Superintendents of Police with effect from the 29th July last vice Mr. G. H. P. Livesay.

Mr. H. C. L. Bamber, Assistant Superintendent of Police, in charge of the District Police, Bogra, is promoted to the second grade of Assistant Superintendents of Police, with effect from the 29th July last, vice Mr. C. C. Plowden.

Judicial—Syed Mahomed Nussiruddin, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad is vested with powers under Section 110, of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Babus Surjo Narain Surbadhikari and Gosto Behary Maker Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Culna in the District of Burdwan are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

Babu Tara Dass Bhuttacharji is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Culna in the District of Burdwan and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Bepin Behari Ghose Officiating Munsiff of Mozufferpore in the District of Tirhut is appointed to be substantive *pro tempore* Munsiff in the District of Dinagepore to be ordinarily stationed at Thakurgaon.

Babu Surendra Nath Mitter Munsiff of Thakuegaon in the District of Dinagepore is appointed to be a Munsiff in the same District to be ordinarily stationed at Ranigunge.

Babu Surendra Nath Mitter is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Raigunge Munsiff.

Babu Soshi Bhusan Chatterji Munsiff of Raigunge in the District of Dinagepur is appointed to be a Munsiff in the District of Dacca to be ordinarily stationed at the Sudder Station.

Babu Soshi Bhusan Chatterjee is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 100 within the local limits of the Dacca Munsiff.

Babu Gobinda Chunder De Munsiff of Dacca is appointed to be a Munsiff in the District of Tipperah to be ordinarily stationed at Kasba.

Babu Gobinda Chunder De is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50 within the local limits of the Kasba Munsiff.

Babu Hari Mohun Bose, Munsiff of Kasba in the District of Tipperah, is appointed to be an Additional Munsiff in the District of the 24-Pergunnahs, to be ordinarily stationed at Diamond Harbour.

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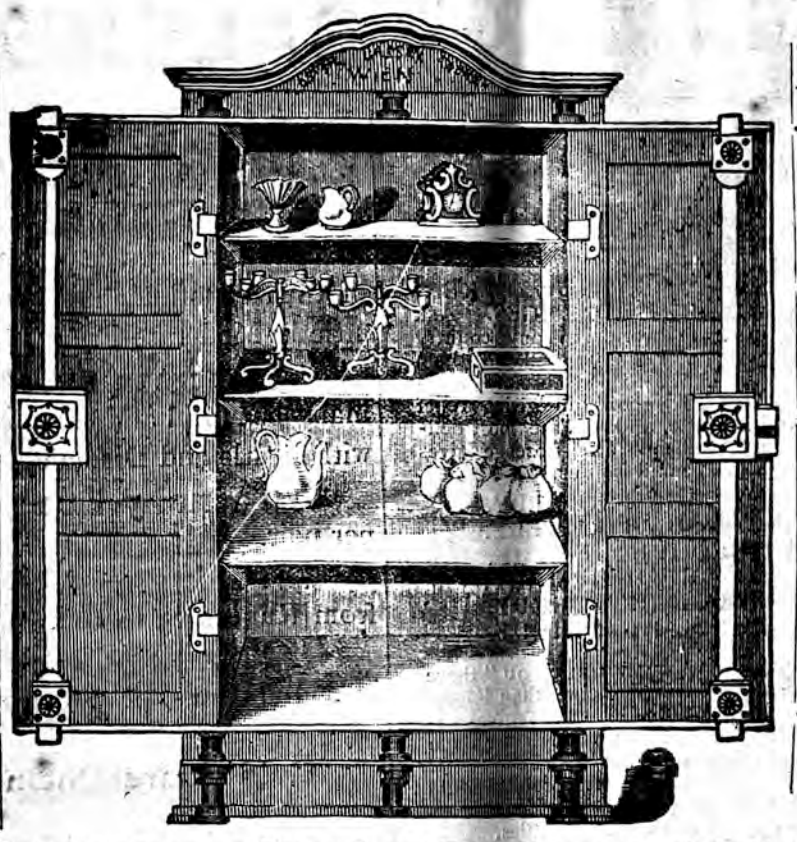

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No.	With Push Lock.	Without Push Lock.
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5½	500	475
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7	715	640
8	800	755
9	950	880

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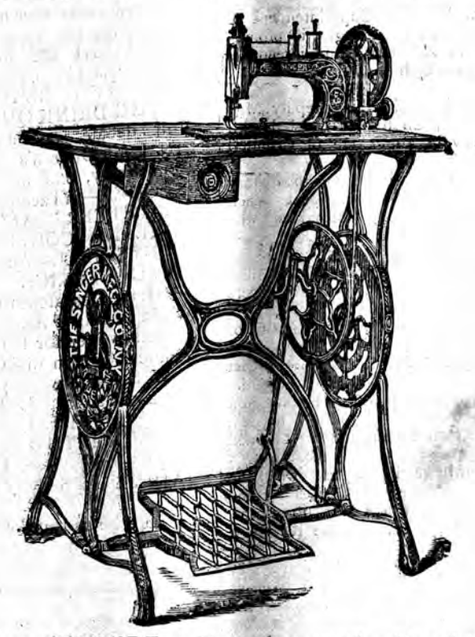

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